



MILWAUKEE COUNTY BOARD SUPERVISOR STEVE F. TAYLOR

Privileged to Serve

Moving Milwaukee County FORWARD Together

WINTER 2023



Steve F. Taylor

Milwaukee County
17th District Supervisor

Milwaukee County Courthouse

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Committee Assignments

Community, Environment,
& Economic Development
Committee,
Chair

Intergovernmental
Relations Committee,
Vice-Chair

Finance Committee

Parks & Culture
Committee

Capital Improvements
Committee

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FROM SUPERVISOR STEVE F. TAYLOR

Dear Friends,

It has been a privilege to serve the residents of the 17th District. I am looking forward to continuing to represent the residents of the City of Franklin and the City of Oak Creek, on the Milwaukee County Board. As with many aspects of my life, my work at the Milwaukee County Board is centered around service to others and I will continue to serve Milwaukee County faithfully.

Milwaukee County has narrowly missed a fiscal cliff through the passage of a 0.4% sales tax. Although the County has avoided this fiscal cliff, it is a glaring indicator of the need for proper financial management at the County. While I did not agree with this sales tax, I will continue to ensure that tax dollars are spent in an appropriate manner that ensures fiscal stability and longevity.

Despite the passage of the sales tax, Milwaukee County will continue to face fiscal challenges in the coming years. This is a direct result of the mismanagement of the pension system by the County Board nearly two decades ago. This fiscally irresponsible pension system has resulted in an accumulation of over \$1 billion of deferred maintenance.

One solution to this issue would be an increase in the shared revenue that Milwaukee County sees from the state. Decades of fiscal irresponsibility by the County has caused the state legislature to be hesitant to increase Milwaukee County's shared revenue. For now, Milwaukee County needs to focus on maintaining federally mandated services to ensure the stability of our basic services.

Funding for the Brewers stadium has been a point of contention between the County, the state, and the Brewers organization in the past few months. The funds freed up from Act 12 has put the County in a much better financial position. Although the County can begin to make investments as opposed to cuts, these investments need to be made in mandated services, not used to fund a private organization to benefit a handful of wealthy individuals. I will continue to work to ensure that your tax dollars are put to good use in a fiscally responsible way. I will continue to be a voice for the residents of Franklin and Oak Creek on the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors.

Please reach out to my office if you have any questions or concerns.

All My Best!!

Steve F. Taylor
17th District Milwaukee County Supervisor



Get In Touch With Supervisor Taylor

Please contact my office through my website at county.milwaukee.gov/SteveTaylor. Feel free to offer comments regarding any matter concerning Milwaukee County. Additionally, you may send an email to Steve.Taylor@milwaukeecountywi.gov to sign up for my e-newsletter "Privileged to Serve."

In the Community - 17th District Updates

Budget Breakdown

For the first time in decades, Milwaukee County has a projected surplus in this budget. This is thanks to the passage of Wisconsin Act 12. The 2024 budget will allow Milwaukee County to determine crucial investments for our residents rather than potential cuts to vital services. The passage of Act 12 will generate an estimated \$84 million in new sales tax revenue.

Although the County narrowly avoided a fiscal cliff, the County must continue to operate in the most fiscally responsible way. The passage of Act 12 has allowed for the freeing up of other revenue streams that were once paying off our County Employee Retirement System. This has created an opportunity for the County to lower its property tax levy by over \$20 million. As a direct result in 2024, owners of a median-value home in Milwaukee County will see their property tax bill decrease by over \$100. This is an example of Milwaukee County working to put money back into the hands of residents.

2024: Bender Park Boat Launch Sediment Abatement

Improvements to the Bender Park Boat Launch are included in the 2024 Capital Budget plan. This project involves the reduction and removal of sediment from the Boat Launch area. Improvements such as these are crucial to ensuring that Milwaukee County Boat Launches are open and safe to use for all residents. Funding for this project totals \$820,500 coming from Milwaukee County. This project is an example of a County investment into vital parks infrastructure.

2024: Oak Leaf Trail Extension – Bender Park

The Milwaukee County Parks Department is currently in the design phase of 7,000 feet of 10' wide paved asphalt trail covering the length of Bender Park in Oak Creek. In 2020, the Parks Department was awarded \$1,306,400 representing 80% of the anticipated costs. The 2023 adopted budget allocated another \$224,510 for this project. This trail connection would become a larger part of the regional Milwaukee County Oak Leaf Trail System. This project will further connect the state, county, and local trail within the Milwaukee Metropolitan area furthering access to the Henry Aaron State Trail and the Ozaukee Inter-urban Trail. The Milwaukee County Parks Department is proud to extend this free of charge trail and its universally accessible design.

2024: S. 13th St. – W. Puetz Rd. to S. Drexel Ave.

This project is the reconstruction of a 1-mile segment of South 13th street from West Puetz Road to West Drexel Avenue. This reconstruction project will mitigate the presence of deteriorating pavement, damaged shoulders, and outdated drainage systems. The project will also address the lack of access for both bicyclists and pedestrians. Federal funding for this project was sourced from the Wisconsin Department of transportation under the Surface Transportation Program. The project funding consists of \$6,800,000 with the Federal share being \$4,984,000 and the County share being \$1,816,000.

2024-2025: CTH BB (Rawson Ave) – S. 13th St. to S. Howell Ave.

This project includes the acquisition of the right-of-way along West Rawson Avenue and the reconstruction of a 1-mile segment from South 13th Street to South Howell Avenue. The reconstruction of this roadway will also consider accommodation to bicycles and pedestrians. Federal funding for this project was made possible through the Surface Transportation Program with \$5,904,000 of the total \$8,210,000 coming from the Federal Government and \$2,445,000 coming from the County. This project is part of the Five-Year Capital Improvements Plan.

2025: Bender Park Road Reconstruction

This project focuses on the reconstruction of the section of Bender Park Road that leads to the Bender Park Boat Launch. The funding for this project is planned for the 2024 Capital Budget with the total cost of the project estimated at \$2,307,920. This project is being planned in tandem with additional planned improvements to the Bender Park Boat Launch.

2025-2026: CTH ZZ (College Ave) – S. 26th St. to W. Howell Ave.

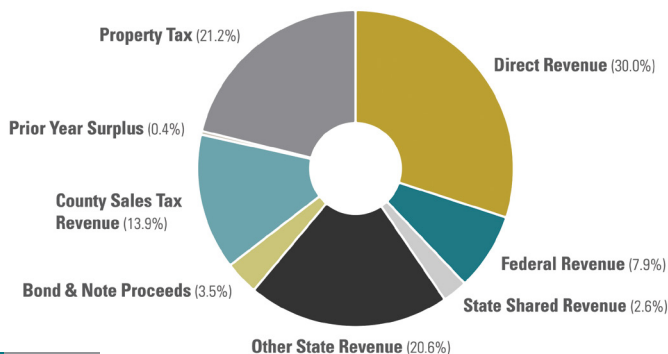
Improvements to West College Avenue from South 26th Street to West Howell Avenue have been included in both the 2025 Capital Improvements Budget and the 2026 Capital Improvements Budget. Project funding planned for 2025 totals \$600,00 with \$120,00 being sourced from the County and \$480,000 coming from outside the County. The following year, funding increases to a total of \$6,900,00 with \$1,380,000 of funds coming from the County and \$5,520,000 of funding coming from outside the County.

2025-2026: Bender Park Boat Launch Repair/Reconfiguration

Further repairs and reconfigurations are being planned for the Bender Park Boat Launch with funds being allocated in the 2025 Capital Improvements Budget and the 2026 Capital Improvements Budget. Funding for these repairs and reconfigurations in 2025 totals \$595,860 being sourced from the County. This planned funding increases in the 2026 Capital Improvements Budget with \$5,969,360 being sourced from the County. This is an example of an increase in County investment to further improve the Bender Park Boat Launch infrastructure.

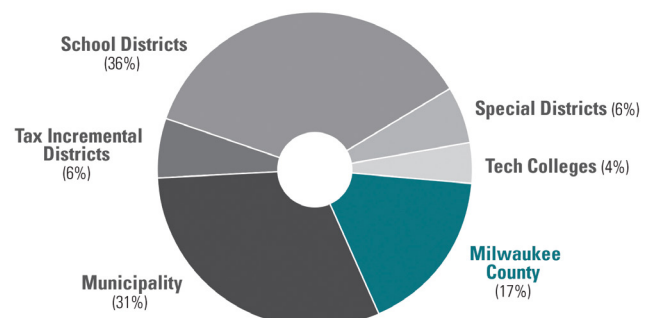
Composition of 2024 Budgeted Countywide Revenue

Milwaukee County now relies more on direct revenue such as golf fees, beer garden sales, and zoo admission for its operations than any other source.



2022 Distribution of Property Taxes in Milwaukee County

The various taxing entities in Milwaukee County collect approximately \$1.86 billion in property taxes annually. Of this total, Milwaukee County government makes up about 17%.



Ensuring the Well-Being of Milwaukee County Residents



Supervisor Steve Taylor debating an issue before colleagues and attendees during a full meeting of the County Board of Supervisors

Milwaukee Public Museum Update

Milwaukee's renowned Public Museum is set for relocation from its current spot at 800 W. Wells St. to a modern venue at the intersection of Sixth and McKinley streets. The new museum will boast a contemporary design comprised of mostly concrete and glass. Although final decisions are still pending, MPM leadership has guaranteed that every item in their collection will find a spot in the new museum, either as permanent exhibits, rotating displays, or in storage. Museum leadership has also ensured that varied artifacts from storage will continue to be periodically displayed in the new building, which is slated to launch in 2026.

The museum also boasted several key exhibits to anticipate including a history exhibit entitled, "Time Travel," "Milwaukee Revealed," "Wisconsin Journey," "Living in a Dynamic World," "Rainforest," a cutting-edge planetarium, a butterfly vivarium, and a rooftop terrace. Several exhibits from the existing museum, like the historic Muskrat Group diorama and the renowned Streets of Old Milwaukee, will migrate to the new space. With the museum's assurance that every artifact will either be exhibited or stored securely, the community eagerly anticipates the late 2026 launch of the new venue.

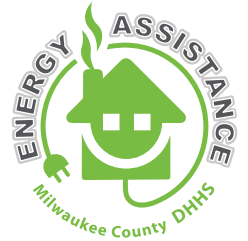
The original museum will mostly remain accessible until that date, with a brief hiatus planned in 2026 to facilitate the transfer of artifacts. As Milwaukee looks towards a promising future, the new Milwaukee Public Museum promises to be an integral part of that journey.



The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, 2022-2024 term.

Energy Assistance Available for Qualifying Milwaukee County Residents

If you are looking for help on your energy bill this winter, Milwaukee County may have you covered. The Energy Assistance Program provides qualified Milwaukee County residents with a one-time, annual payment toward heating and electric bills. The funding pays a portion of energy costs determined by household size, income, and energy costs. The benefit is usually paid directly to the energy supplier.



If you have a utility bill and are within Milwaukee County's income guidelines, you probably qualify. Schedule an appointment by calling **(414) 270-4-MKE** or **2-1-1**. Once you successfully complete the application with an energy specialist your benefit will go directly to your utility account.

If you are seeking the status of your application, you will receive a benefit status letter in the mail within 7-14 business days after your verification documents have been received. If it has been more than 14 business days, please call **(414) 270-4653**.

If you have a complaint in regard to your experience with the Energy Assistance Program, please call **(414) 289-6656** or email EnergyAssistance@milwaukeecountywi.gov and a representative will follow up with you within 48 hours. If you completed your application online and have questions call **(800) 506-5596** for assistance.

Co-sponsored Legislation in 2023

- **23-355** - A resolution calling upon the state of Wisconsin to amend its statutes to waive the annual fishing license fee for residents 65 and older in Wisconsin.
- **23-559** - A resolution opposing the use of Milwaukee County tax levy to fund long-term renovations at American Family Field to secure a lease extension with the Milwaukee Brewers after the current stadium lease expires in 2030.
- **23-573** - A resolution supporting mental health treatment and care and recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness Month.
- **23-646** - A resolution recognizing the valuable role parks and recreation plays in community health and wellness and designating July as Park and Recreation Month in Milwaukee County.



Supervisor Steve F. Taylor
901 N. 9th Street, Room 201
Milwaukee, WI 53233

**"Any definition of a successful life
must include serving others."
– George H.W. Bush**

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Supervisor Taylor speaking during a County Board meeting.

Enjoy Free Milwaukee County Attractions! Visit county.milwaukee.gov/freedays

 MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MUSEUM Free to all (excluding groups) the first Thursday of every month, sponsored by Kohl's. County residents get \$2 off every day. 800 W. Wells St., Milw. (414) 278-2728 www.mpm.edu	 VILLA TERRACE DECORATIVE ARTS MUSEUM Free admission on the first Wednesday of every month. 2220 N. Terrace Ave. Milwaukee (414) 271-3656 www.villaterrace.org	 MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM Free every day for kids 12 and under. 700 N. Art Museum Dr. Milwaukee (414) 224-3200 www.mam.org	 Charles Allis Art Museum Free admission on the first Wednesday of every month. 1801 N. Prospect Ave. Milwaukee (414) 278-8295 www.charlesallis.org	 Milwaukee Zoo Family Free Days 2023: 12/2, 2024: 1/6, 2/3, 3/2, 10/5, 11/2, 12/7. Frosty Free Week 2023: 12/26-12/30. Parking fees still apply. 10001 W. Bluemound Rd. Milw. • (414) 256-5412 www.milwaukeezoo.org	 betty brinn CHILDREN'S MUSEUM Free admission on the third Thursday of each month 929 E. Wisconsin Ave. Milwaukee (414) 390-5437 www.bbcmkids.org	 War Memorial Center Free and open every day 8 to close. 750 N. Lincoln Memorial Dr. Milwaukee (414) 273-5533 www.warmemorialcenter.org
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Service Guide for 17th District Milwaukee County Residents

17th District Milwaukee County Supervisor

Steve F. Taylor(414) 278-4263

Aging and Disability Resource Center(414) 289-6660

Airports

Mitchell International Airport(414) 747-5300

Timmerman Airport(414) 461-3222

Child Support Services

Customer Service(414) 615-2593

KIDS Information Line(800) 991-5530

Clerk of Circuit Court(414) 278-5362

Community Reintegration Center(414) 427-4700

County Clerk(414) 278-4067

County Executive(414) 278-4212

County Treasurer(414) 278-4033

Courts

Civil Division (small & large claims).....(414) 278-5362

Criminal Division(414) 278-4538

Children's Division(414) 257-7700

Dept. of Health and Human Services.....(888) 947-6583

District Attorney's Office.....(414) 278-4646

Election Commission.....(414) 278-4060

Emergency/Public Safety

Sheriff General Information(414) 278-4766

Sheriff (non-emergency)(414) 278-4788

TDD Emergency.....(414) 278-5252

Burn Center Hotline (24 hours).....(414) 272-2876

Emergency Management (24 hours).....(414) 257-4709

Suicide Prevention/Intervention(414) 257-7222

Mental Health Crisis(414) 257-7222

Fraud Hotline(414) 93-FRAUD

Jury Services

General Information.....(414) 278-4469

Reserve Juror Message(414) 985-6000

Marcus Performing Arts Center(414) 273-7121

Marriage Licenses/Passports/Fishing.....(414) 278-4067

Medical Examiner(414) 223-1200

Milwaukee Art Museum(414) 224-3200

Milwaukee County Historical Society(414) 273-8288

Milwaukee County Parks

General Information.....(414) 257-7275

Parks Hotline.....(414) 257-5100

Organized Sports.....(414) 257-8030

Boerner Botanical Gardens.....(414) 525-5600

Golf Office(414) 257-8024

Golf Reservations(414) 475-6222

District 17 Parks

Bender Park(414) 762-1550

Clement's Park(414) 257-7275

Falk Park.....(414) 762-1550

Grobschmidt Park.....(414) 281-6289

Johnstone Park.....(414) 766-7920

Riverton Meadows Park(414) 257-7275

Milwaukee County Sports Complex(414) 281-2694

Milwaukee County Zoo(414) 771-3040

Milwaukee Public Museum(414) 278-2702

Municipalities

Franklin.....(414) 425-7500

Oak Creek(414) 766-7000

Office of Persons with Disabilities(414) 278-3932

Register in Probate(414) 278-4444

Register of Deeds(414) 278-4021

Rent Assistance.....(414) 278-4894

Transit System

Bus Routes/Schedules/Fares(414) 344-6711

Customer Comments.....(414) 937-3218

Transit Plus.....(414) 343-1700

UW-Extension.....(414) 256-4600

Veterans Services(414) 266-1234

Victim/Witness Service.....(414) 278-4667